

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

By this amendment, Figure 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Without concession as to the propriety of the outstanding rejection, some of the claims have also been amended to more particularly claim certain aspects of the invention.

Lacey is relied upon as the primary reference for the various rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Applicants would like to respectfully highlight that the priority claim of the instant application dates back to Provisional Application No.: 60/296,697, filed June 7, 2001. Lacey's earliest priority date is December 31, 2001 – Thus, lacey is not available as prior art.

Moreover, Lacey is directed to a system and method for interfacing a protocol component with a physical layer component. Lacey further teaches a means for interfacing the protocol handshake component 106 and the physical layer data pump and AFE components 108 and 110 in a timing-independent manner. The interface provides for configuration and control sufficient to enable data transception pursuant to the requirements of the standard line protocol. In addition the interface provides for tone transmission and detection of messages according to the requirements of ADSL handshaking process. Further, the interface is a message based and timing independent interface. A key objective of this interface is to hide the implementation of data and signal transception, which involves significant timing information, underneath a clean interface displaying only the attributes needed to meet the physical layer requirements of the protocol.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in Lacey of the combination of claimed features.

In light of the above, and in that Lacey is not prior art and the relied upon secondary references fail to overcome the deficiencies of Lacey, Applicants respectfully submit the application is in condition for allowance.

A prompt Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 19-1970 (5550-12-DIV) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby Petitioned.

Respectfully submitted,

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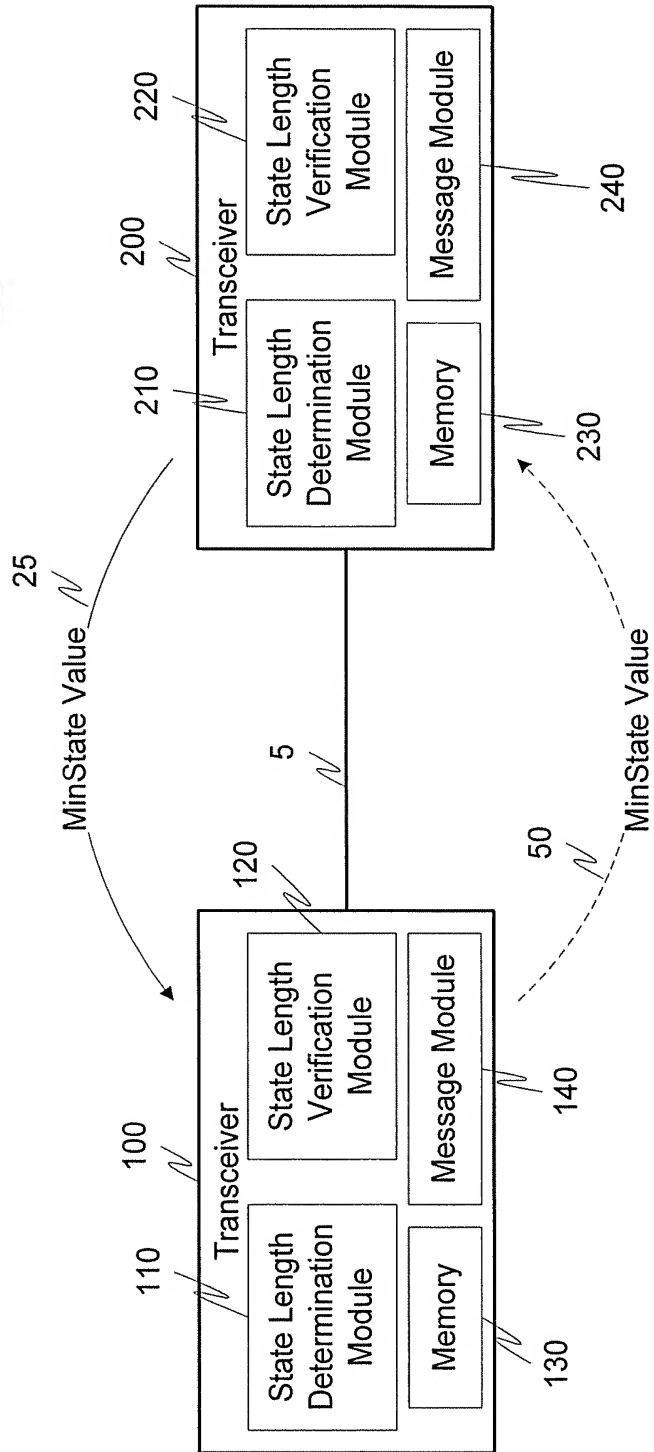


Fig. 1